DANGEROUS BATTLES... BREATHLESS SUSPENSE!

MEN AT WAR

MAN COMICS

FEB. NO. 23

10¢

ATLAS

"FIRE AT WILL!"

ON SALE MONTHLY

Build a Fine Business . . . Full or Spare Time!

I'll Put a "Shoe Store Business" in Your Pocket!

You Don't Invest a Cent!
I Furnish Everything Free!

Want to have lots of money in your pocket — always? Then rush the coupon below and start toward your own business. In many ways it's better than a retail store of your own! I plan to give it to you absolutely FREE. You don't invest a penny now or ever! Be in this highly profitable business QUICK.

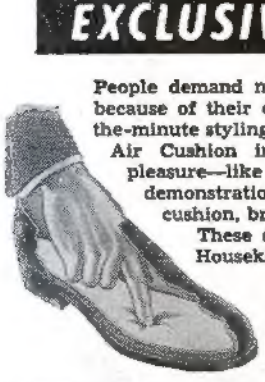
HERE'S WHY IT'S BETTER!

As the direct factory man handling the quick-selling line of this 47-year old, million-dollar company you have a limitless market, because everybody wears shoes. Start by selling to relatives, friends, neighbors. That will prove the fine quality leathers—superb craftsmanship—money-saving value—and unequalled comfort-fit! Then branch out on a big scale.

It's easy to fit folks in the exact style they want—no need to substitute—you draw on our huge factory stock of over 175,000 pairs plus huge daily factory production.

Sales build up from friend to friend quickly, like a snowball. Recommendations, repeat orders and new customers build you a big income in a surprisingly short time. No wonder some of our top Shoe Counselors make from $5 to $10 every hour they spend taking orders!

EXCLUSIVE FEATURES



People demand nationally advertised Mason Shoes because of their exclusive comfort features, up-to-the-minute styling. Foamy-soft exclusive Velvet-Eez Air Cushion innersole makes walking a real pleasure—like "walking on air!" Ten-second demonstration lets customer actually feel air cushion, brings quick sales!

These splendid shoes bear famous Good Housekeeping Guarantee Seal.

Velvet-eez

MASON SHOE MFG. CO.
Dept. MA-64 CHIPPEWA FALLS, WISC.

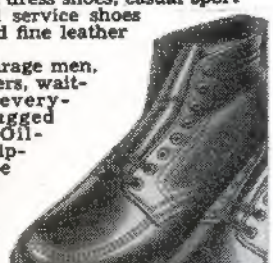
BIG, STEADY PROFITS FOR YOU — NO OVERHEAD!

That's right! You have all the advantages of a profitable shoe store business *without* the expenses of rent, light, heat, etc. You are independent and invest nothing but your time. Your generous profit is ALL YOURS! No wonder Mason men are making more money than ever before. Even if you start in spare time, you will soon want to devote full time to this steady, repeat-order big-income business!

No Experience Needed . . . Make Money First Hour!

You need no experience to make money right away. Some men have made up to 20 sales their first day. You feature 151 styles of smart dress shoes, casual sport shoes, and practical work and service shoes for men and women, boots and fine leather jackets, too.

Sell to service station and garage men, waiters, factory workers, barbers, waitresses, nurses, housewives—everybody! Such features as Rugged Horsehide Shoes, Neoprene Oil-Resistant Soles, Gro-Cork Slip-Resistant Soles, Steel Safety Toe shoes make Mason Shoes easy to sell.



SEND NOW!

I have a powerful Selling Outfit I'm going to send you absolutely FREE as soon as I receive your coupon. This outfit includes actual 10-second demonstrator, famous Automatic Selling Plan, and features exclusive Velvet-Eez Air-Cushion shoes, fine leather jackets—other fast-selling specialties. To take advantage of this opportunity of your life, rush me the coupon below NOW! You'll be glad you did!

SEND FOR FREE OUTFIT

Mr. Ned Mason, Sales Manager
Mason Shoe Mfg. Co., Dept. MA-64
Chippewa Falls, Wisc.

Please put a "Shoe Store Business" in my pocket by rushing FREE and postpaid your Powerful Selling Outfit—so I can start making Big Money my very first hour!

Name .....

Age .....

Address .....

Town..... State.....

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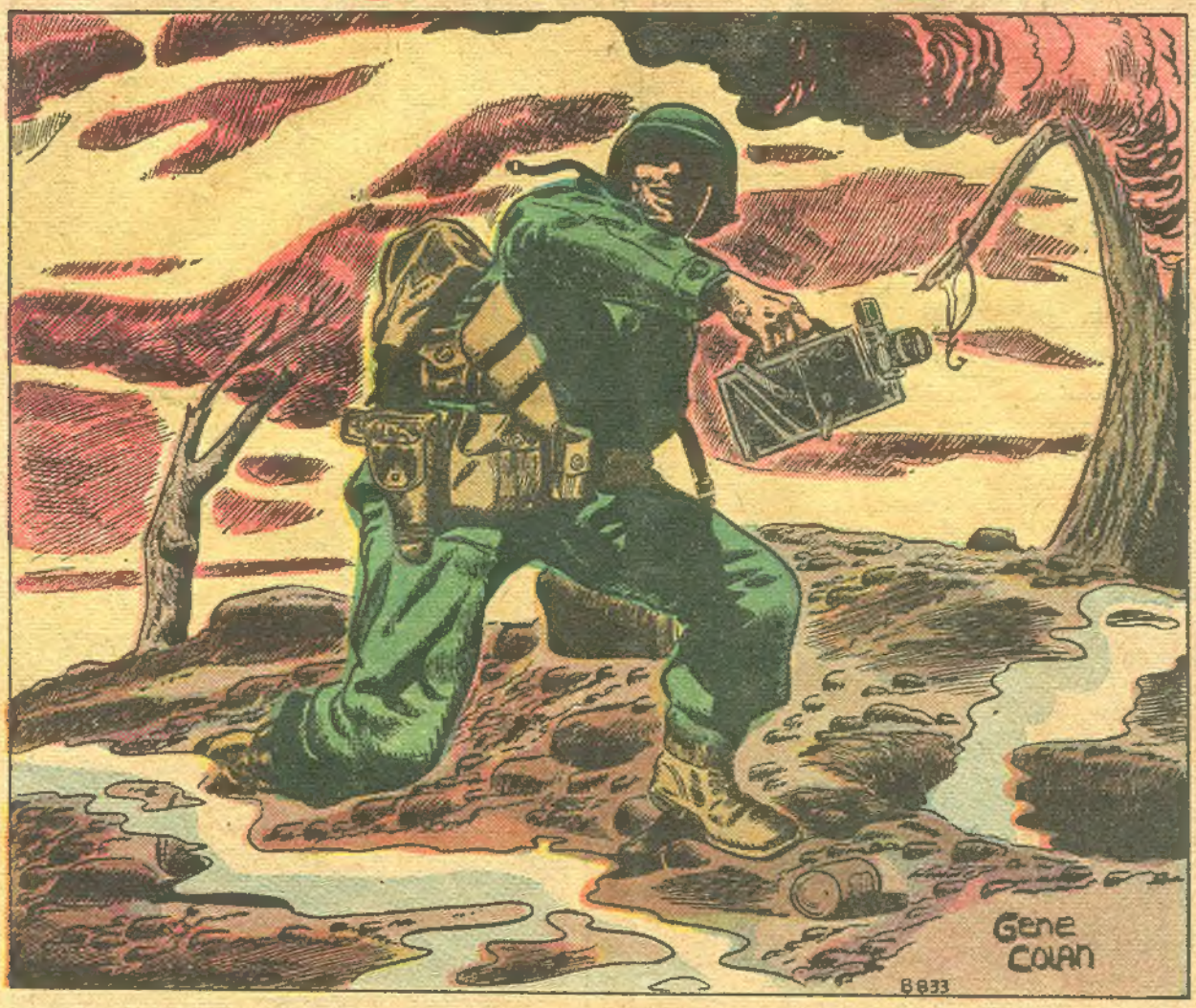
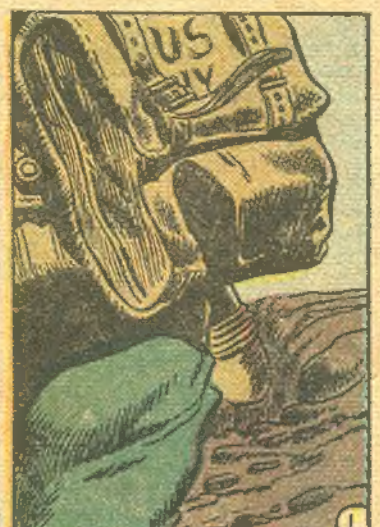
CLOSE-UP



TOMORROW G. I. TROOPS WILL COME THROUGH THESE WOODS TO STRIKE AT THE REDS! THE PURPOSE OF THIS PATROL IS TO SCOUT CONDITIONS OF TERRAIN AND ENEMY STRENGTH...

BUT LET'S TAKE A CLOSE LOOK AT STAN! THAT'S A 35 MM COMBAT MOVIE CAMERA HE'S CARRYING...

AND A MUSETTE BAG WITH SPARE FILM...



ALL NAMES AND PLACES IN THESE TRUE-TO-LIFE STORIES ARE FICTITIOUS
ANY SIMILARITY BETWEEN ACTUAL PERSONS OR PLACES AND THOSE USED IN THESE STORIES IS PURELY COINCIDENTAL

A .45 CALIBER, ARMY ISSUE COLT IS ON HIS HIP, "JUST IN CASE"...
AND HE CARRIES A TELEPHOTO LENS, ALSO "JUST IN CASE"! THE SLOGAN OF HIS UNIT IS, "YOU'VE GOT TO GET CLOSE!"
LONG SHOTS HAVE NO FEELING AN' NO DETAIL! IF YOU WANT TO BE A COMBAT CAMERAMAN, YOU'VE GOT TO GET CLOSE...
QUIET, MEN! WE'RE IN RED TERRITORY! HOW YUH DOIN', STAN?
OKAY, SARGE! BUT I SURE KNOW WHAT THE GUYS MEAN NOW WHEN THEY SAY THIS EQUIPMENT IS ONE WEIGHT GOIN' UP HILL AND ANOTHER WEIGHT COMIN' DOWN!
LISTEN, WE'RE GOIN' TO CIRCLE TO AVOID ENEMY PATROLS AND SEE IF WE CAN LOCATE THE MAIN BODY OF REDS! STICK CLOSE, STAN!
IF WE HIT ANY PATROLS, GET DOWN, STAN, AN' LET US DO THE FIGHTIN'!
DON'T WORRY, I WILL! THE ONLY SHOOTIN' I'M SUPPOSED TO DO, IS WITH THIS CAMERA... EXCEPT IN AN EMERGENCY!
THEY MAKE A BIG CIRCLE THROUGH THE WOODS, TO THE HILL TOWARD WHICH INTELLIGENCE HAS REPORTED THE REDS WERE MOVING...
THERE'S THE HILL! KEEP DOWN AND SNEAK IN CLOSE AS YOU CAN... WE'LL SEE IF THE REDS ARE THERE!
THERE THEY ARE! OKAY, STAN, GET YOUR PICTURES!
RIGHT!

HE'S EXCITED... A LITTLE SCARED! HE'S NEVER SEEN THE ENEMY BEFORE, AND THIS IS THE FIRST ASSIGNMENT...
GET IT ALL...
I WISH I WAS A LITTLE CLOSER...
NOT THIS TIME, FELLER! THAT PATROL'S COMIN' RIGHT FOR US! LET'S GET OUT OF HERE! KEEP DOWN AND SNAKE BACK...
THEY CRAWL BACK AND HIDE IN A GULLY AS THE PATROL GOES BY...
OKAY, LET'S GO! DID YOU GET IT ALL, STAN, SO THE GUYS CAN SEE WHAT THEY'RE UP AGAINST TOMORROW?
YEAH! BUT I WISH I COULD'VE GOTTEN CLOSER...
WE'LL CUT STRAIGHT BACK ALONGSIDE THIS ROAD! THIS IS THE WAY THE TROOPS WILL COME! WE'LL SEE HOW IT LOOKS...
DOWN! REDS ON THE ROAD!
THEY'RE LAYIN' ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES ON THE ROAD THE TROOPS WILL TAKE TOMORROW!
I'LL GET IT! THIS IS BETTER... CLOSER!
HE'S GETTING IT! HE'S THRILLED NOW... HE'S GETTING GOOD CLOSE SHOTS, HIS FIRST TIME IN THE FIELD... IMPORTANT SHOTS THAT WILL SAVE LIVES...
SMALL PATROL COMING FROM THE LEFT, SARGE!
LET'S GO! C'MON, STAN...
OKAY, IN A SEC...
BZZZ

THIS IS WHAT HE'S BEEN TRAINED FOR...THIS IS HIS JOB, AND THERE'S ONLY HIM AND HIS CAMERA AND THE REDS OUT THERE...

CRIPES, WHY DOESN'T HE COME? I CAN'T CALL HIM, THE REDS'D HEAR ME...

SECONDS STRETCH INTO MINUTES! THE CAMERA STILL GRINDS ON! NOW HE'S GOT IT ALL...

GOT IT! GOOD CLOSE... HEY, WHERE ARE THEY? SARGE...!

HE LOOKS AROUND... IT TAKES HIM A MINUTE TO REALIZE THAT HE'S ALONE...

CRIPES, THEY'RE GONE... I'M ALONE, IN ENEMY TERRITORY! WHAT'LL I DO...?

I'LL HAVE TO TRY TO GET BACK BY MYSELF! GOT TO GET THESE FILMS BACK TO H.Q.! WONDER WHERE THE OTHER GUYS ARE...?

HE FEELS THE ROUND, COLD EYES OF THE RIFLE BARRELS AND HE WONDERS WHEN THEY WILL GO OFF! HE THINKS OF LOTS OF THINGS... BUT MOST OF ALL, HE THINKS OF...DEATH...

MOVE, YANKEE DOG...BE QUICK... CHOP, CHOP!

WE FIND HIM TAKING PICTURES OF HONORABLE MAJOR'S ACTIVITIES!

HAH, A CAMERAMAN! VERY GOOD!

OUR COMRADES WILL WELCOME PICTURES! SERGEANT, TAKE HIM INTO WOODS, REMOVE ALL PERSONAL BELONGINGS, AND SHOOT HIM!
VERY EXCELLENT, MAJOR!

FRANTICALLY HE WONDERS... IS THERE NO WAY OUT OF THIS? HE KNOWS THE ANSWER... AND HE MUST GET A GRIP ON HIMSELF TO KEEP FROM SCREAMING...
MARCH, DOG!
WAIT!

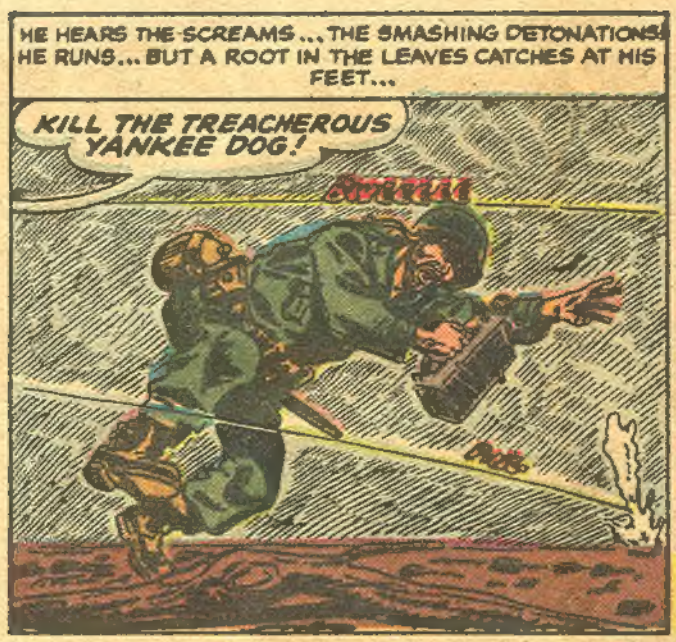
WHAT NOW? SWEAT IS RUNNING DOWN BETWEEN HIS SHOULDER BLADES... THE BITTER-SALT TASTE OF IT IS ON HIS LIPS...
I HAVE EXCELLENT IDEA! YOU WILL FIRST TAKE PICTURES OF ME AND MY MEN! MY SUPERIORS, VIEWING THE FILMS, WILL PERHAPS REMEMBER ME... REMEMBER THAT IT IS TIME THAT I WAS PROMOTED! YOU DO THIS, YES?
S-SURE!

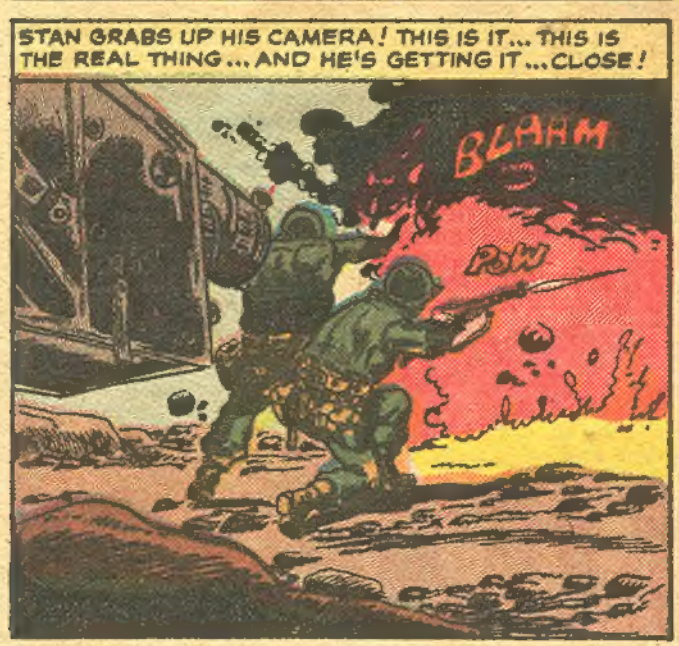
HIS THOUGHTS ARE RACING NOW! HE NOTICES THAT THE GUARDS HAVE LEFT HIM... ANXIOUS TO BE IN THE PICTURES, TOO...
LIKE THIS, YOU TAKE PICTURES! ALL IS CLEAR?
ER... NO! NO, THE FOCUS IS TOO CLOSE FOR CLARITY! MOVE BACK A LITTLE...

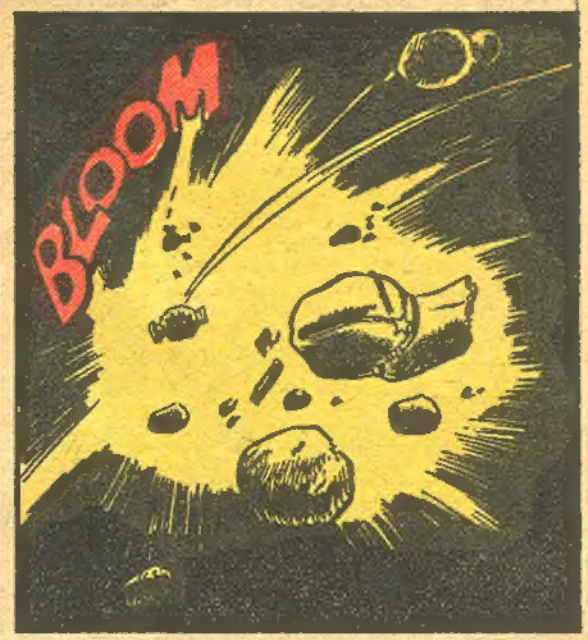
A WILD IDEA? CERTAINLY! BUT WHEN A MAN'S LIFE IS AT STAKE, ANY CHANCE IS BETTER THAN NONE...
THEY'RE STANDING RIGHT IN FRONT OF THE MINE FIELD! IF I CAN MAKE THEM STEP BACK FAR ENOUGH...
STEP BACK A LITTLE FURTHER...

BACK ANOTHER STEP... JUST A LITTLE MORE, PLEASE... LOOK AT THE CAMERA!
IF THEY JUST DON'T GET WISE.. OR STOP WATCHING THE CAMERA AND REALIZE WHAT'S HAPPENING!

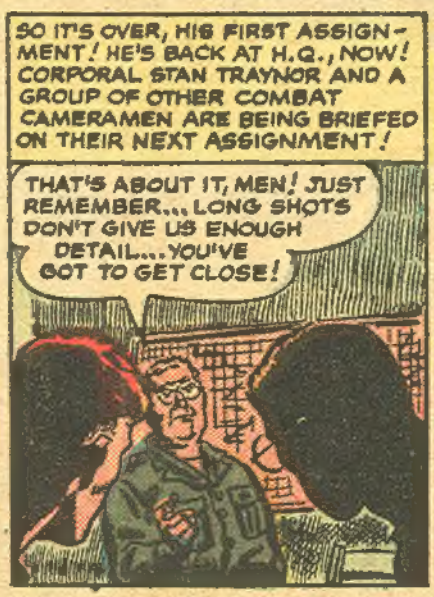
THEY TAKE ONE MORE STEP BACKWARDS...
BLAAM!


HE HEARS THE SCREAMS... THE SMASHING DETONATIONS! HE RUNS... BUT A ROOT IN THE LEAVES CATCHES AT HIS FEET...
KILL THE TREACHEROUS YANKEE DOG!
AUUUUU
POW





GUESS THAT TAKES CARE OF THAT! LET'S GO HOME... THE ENGINEERS'LL PULL THE TEETH OF THE MINES THAT'RE LEFT!
YOU DIDN'T FOLLOW WHEN WE SNEAKED BACK, KID! RECKON YOU THOUGHT WE LEFT YUH, HUH? WE WERE CLOSE... JUST WAITIN' FOR A BREAK AN' YOU GAVE IT TO US!


SO IT'S OVER, HIS FIRST ASSIGNMENT! HE'S BACK AT H.Q., NOW! CORPORAL STAN TRAYNOR AND A GROUP OF OTHER COMBAT CAMERAMEN ARE BEING BRIEFED ON THEIR NEXT ASSIGNMENT!
THAT'S ABOUT IT, MEN! JUST REMEMBER... LONG SHOTS DON'T GIVE US ENOUGH DETAIL... YOU'VE GOT TO GET CLOSE!

ATLAS
FOR THE BEST IN WAR TALES LOOK FOR THE ATLAS SEAL ON THE COVER!
ATLAS

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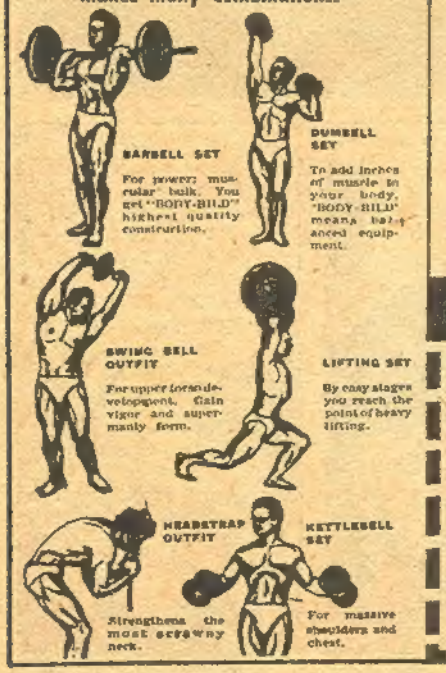
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ORDER THIS WAY:

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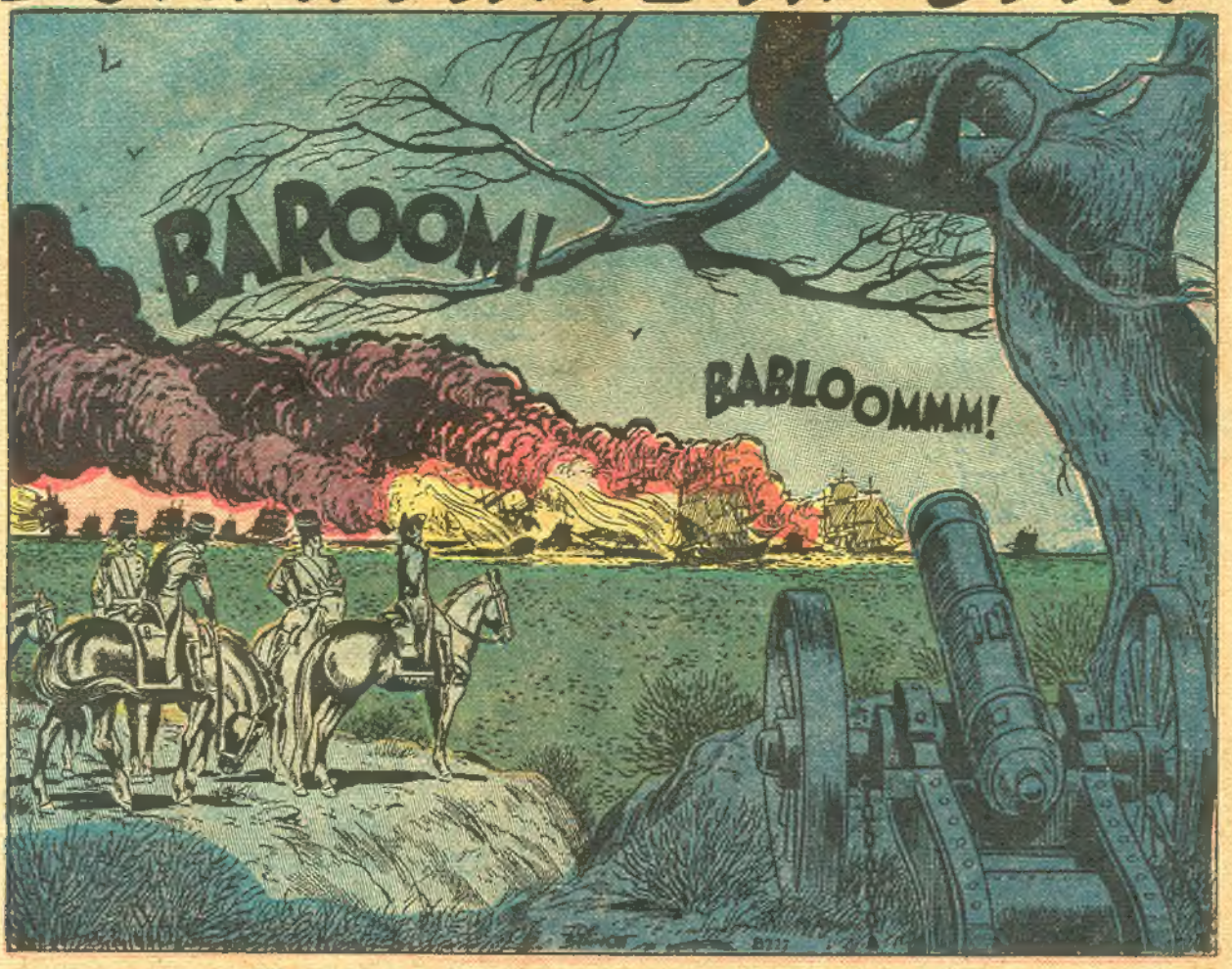
ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ Zone _____ STATE _____

AGE _____ WEIGHT _____ HEIGHT _____

THE GREATEST SOLDIER IN ALL HISTORY WAS TRAPPED, CUT OFF FROM ESCAPE IN A STRANGE LAND! THE ENEMY GLOATED! THE WOULD-BE CONQUEROR OF THE WORLD WAS FINISHED! HERE IS THE STORY OF THAT TRAP, AND OF...

BONAPARTE AT BAY!



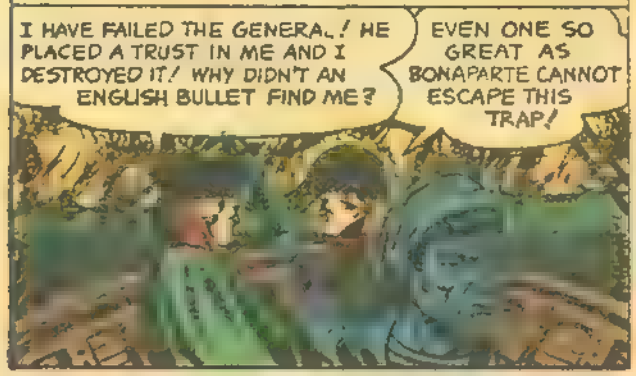
ENGLAND IS STILL MISTRESS OF THE SEAS! I, VICE-ADMIRAL NELSON, PROMISE THAT OUR FLEET WILL TRAP AND WIPE OUT HIS SHIPS... AND NAPOLEON BONAPARTE WILL BE CRUSHED!

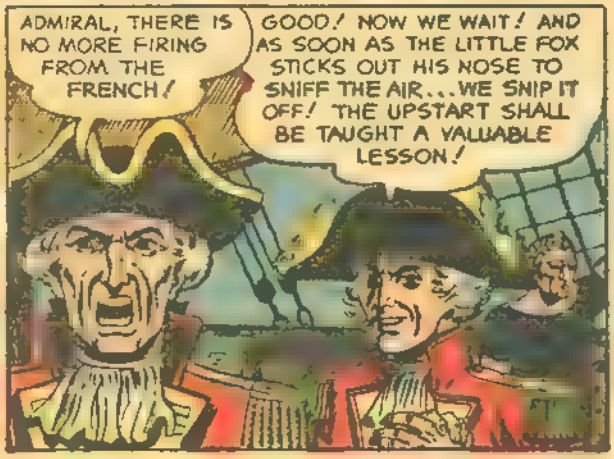
SO THE GIGANTIC TRAP FOR THE "LITTLE COLONEL" WAS SET AND BAITED! BONAPARTE'S ARMY HAD INVADED EGYPT! HIS SHIPS, HIS ONLY LINE OF SUPPLY AND COMMUNICATION, WERE ANCHORED IN ABOUKIR BAY...
THE DESTINY OF FRANCE IS IN YOUR HANDS, ADMIRAL GANTHEAUME! HOLD THESE SHIPS AT ALL COST!
WE WILL HOLD THEM WITH OUR LIVES, MON GENERAL! GOD-SPEED TO YOU!
BONAPARTE IS LEAVING WITH HIS TROOPS! DO WE STRIKE NOW?
NOT YET! WE MUST OUT-FOX THE FOX! WITHOUT HIS FLEET HE WILL BE ABSOLUTELY POWERLESS! LET HIM GO! I WILL CUT OFF HIS LEGS FROM UNDER HIM!
THEY SAY HE IS THE GREATEST SOLDIER IN THE WORLD! WHEN I GET THROUGH WITH HIM, THEY'LL SAY HE WAS THE GREATEST! WAIT... WAIT FOR MY COMMAND!
HOW DO WE GO, GENERAL?
SOUTH... SOUTH TO THE PYRAMIDS!
WE MUST STRIKE FAST AND SURELY! WE MUST FIGHT.. KEEP GOING AND FIGHT AGAIN! NEVER STOP... NEVER HESITATE! ONWARD, SOLDATS OF FRANCE!
AND ON CHARGED NAPOLEON INTO THE BARREN SANDS OF ANCIENT EGYPT!
...FAR OUT AT SEA, VICE-ADMIRAL NELSON FINALLY GAVE THE COMMAND OF ATTACK TO THE BRITISH FLEET!
NOW!
WEIGH ANCHORS!
AT FULL SAIL, GUNS THUNDERING ON THEIR DECKS, THE MIGHTY NAVAL FORCE PLOWED INTO THE SMALL FRENCH FLEET AT ABOUKIR BAY!
BOOM
BRRMMMM!

FOR MORE THAN TWENTY TERRIBLE HOURS THE FRENCH FLEET UNDER ADMIRAL GANTHEAUME WAS POUNDED BY THE GUNS OF ADMIRAL NELSON! FRANCE COULD WIN THE BATTLES ON LAND, BUT ENGLAND WAS STILL MISTRESS OF THE SEAS!

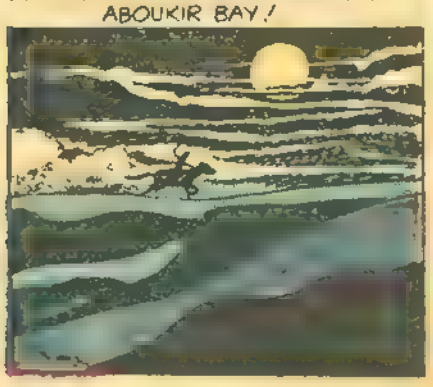
I WILL HAVE THAT MISERABLE WOULD-BE CAESAR CRAWLING ON HIS HANDS AND KNEES TO ME BEGGING FOR MERCY! HE IS BEATEN! THERE IS NOTHING FOR HIM TO DO BUT SUE FOR PEACE!
BALOOM!

THE FRENCH FLEET WAS TOTALLY DESTROYED! THE BEST THAT ADMIRAL GANTHEAUME COULD DO WAS SAVE TWO SHIPS AND SEEK TO HIDE FROM THE BRITISH!


I HAVE FAILED THE GENERAL! HE PLACED A TRUST IN ME AND I DESTROYED IT! WHY DIDN'T AN ENGLISH BULLET FIND ME?
EVEN ONE SO GREAT AS BONAPARTE CANNOT ESCAPE THIS TRAP!


ADMIRAL, THERE IS NO MORE FIRING FROM THE FRENCH!
GOOD! NOW WE WAIT! AND AS SOON AS THE LITTLE FOX STICKS OUT HIS NOSE TO SNIFF THE AIR...WE SNIP IT OFF! THE UPSTART SHALL BE TAUGHT A VALUABLE LESSON!

SWIFT MESSENGERS SPED ACROSS THE DESERT HARD ON THE HEELS OF NAPOLEON'S LEGIONS TO BRING HIM WORD OF THE DISASTER AT ABOUKIR BAY!



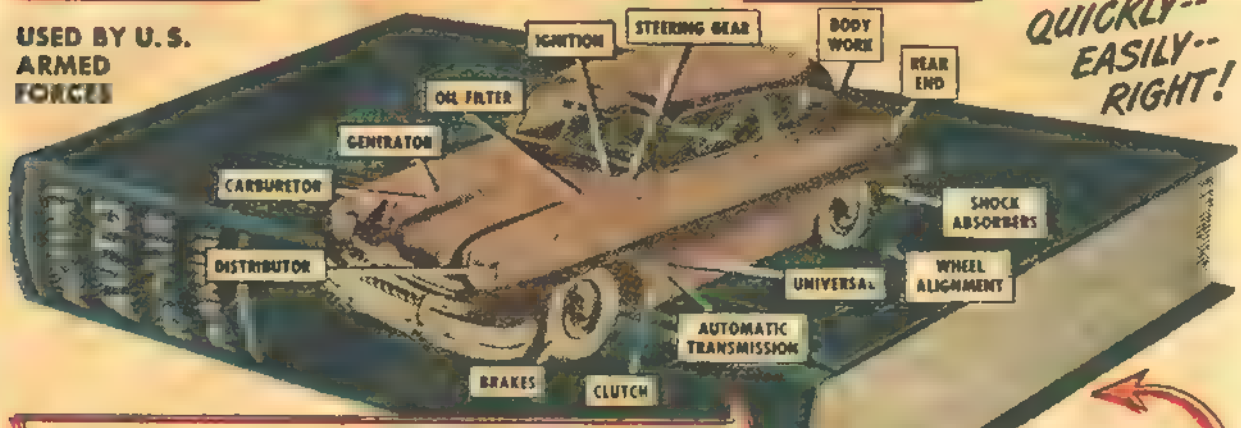
SO...THE BRITISH SEA-LION HAS BARKED AT ME! THEY THINK I AM AT BAY! BUT THEY DO NOT KNOW ME TOO WELL, MES AMIS! I CAME TO WRENCH EGYPT FROM ENGLAND...AND FREE HER PEOPLE...AND I WILL DO IT!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

HOW TO FIX ANY PART OF ANY CAR

USED BY U.S. ARMED FORCES

QUICKLY-- EASILY-- RIGHT!



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INSTEAD OF GIVING UP AS THE BRITISH THOUGHT HE WOULD DO, BONAPARTE WENT ON TO FIGHT THE BATTLE OF THE PYRAMIDS!

TWO THOUSAND MILES FROM THE FRENCH COAST WITH AN ARMY OF FIFTY THOUSAND TROOPS, HE WAS LEFT WITHOUT MEANS OF RETURN, SUPPLY OR COMMUNICATION!

EGYPT IS MINE.. BUT IT'S LIKE HOLDING A TIGER BY THE TAIL! I STILL HAVE NOT BROKEN THE POWER OF ENGLAND IN THE EAST!

ENOUGH! ENOUGH OF WAITING AND WONDERING AND INACTIVITY! WE MARCH TO ABOUKIR!

TO NELSON? SO... WE FACE THE LION HIMSELF! OUI, MON COMMANDANT!

WITH A TIRED, WEARY, BEDRAGGLED ARMY, NAPOLEON TRUDGED ACROSS THE DESERT TOWARD ABOUKIR BAY AND ALEXANDRIA!

SOLDIERS OF FRANCE! THE TURKISH FLEET HAS LANDED 18000 MEN TO MEET US! A BATTLE WILL BE FOUGHT TOMORROW WHICH WILL DECIDE THE FATE OF THE WORLD!

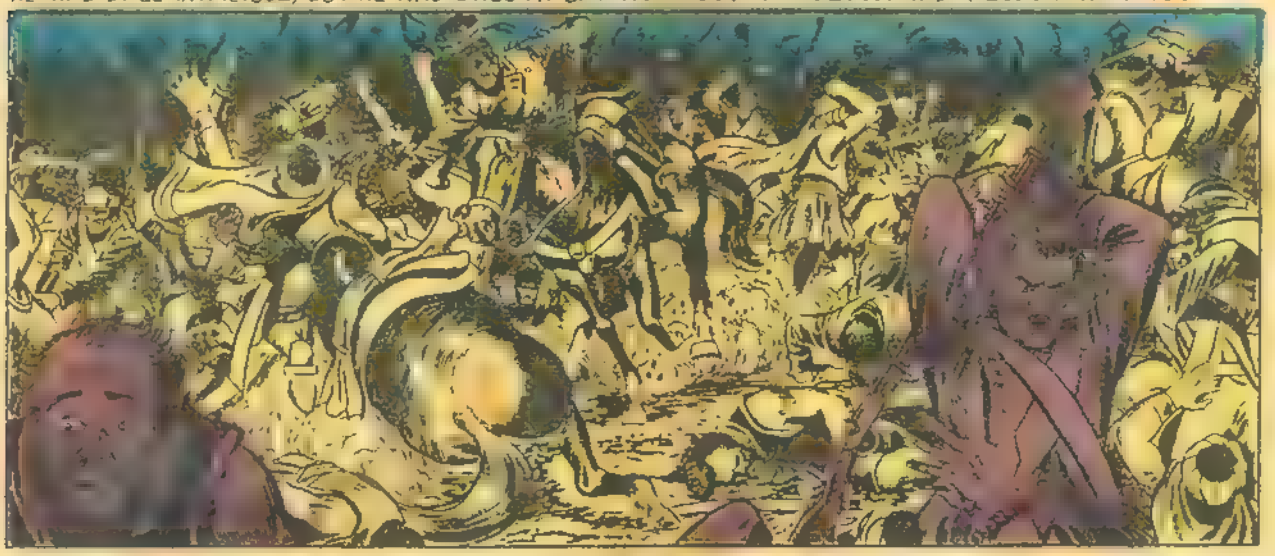
LEAD US, GENERAL! WE WILL FOLLOW!

JULY 25, 1799! THE FRENCH FACED THE TURKS! FOR ONE AWFUL MOMENT THERE WAS SILENCE... THEN BONAPARTE'S COMMAND RANG OUT...!

ONWARD, SOLDIERS OF FRANCE!

AND THE SOLDIERS WHO HAD NEVER TASTED DEFEAT FOLLOWED THE ORDER OF THEIR GENERAL! THEY CHARGED INTO THE RANKS OF THE TURKS!

BY NOON IT WAS NO LONGER A BATTLE...IT WAS A MASSACRE! BONAPARTE'S BOLDNESS BROUGHT SWIFT VICTORY TO HIS TROOPS! SIX THOUSAND TURKS LAY DEAD ON THE BATTLEFIELD WHILE AN EQUAL AMOUNT SURRENDERED! HE WAS STILL INVINCIBLE, BUT HE WAS STILL AT BAY ..WITHOUT A FLEET... AND NELSON WAITING!



ANOTHER VICTORY DUE TO YOUR SKILL, MON GENERAL!

OUI! BUT WHAT IS VICTORY IF I AM TO REMAIN HERE... AWAY FROM MY BELOVED FRANCE!?

IT WAS A GRIM HOUR FOR THE CONQUEROR! HE SAT ALONE, HIS EYES ON THE BLUE SEA... LOOKING TOWARD THE FRANCE HE THOUGHT HE WOULD NEVER SEE AGAIN!

PARDON, M'SIEU!

THE MEN, MON GENERAL .THEY . WE FEEL THAT YOU MUST LIVE FOR THE GLORY OF FRANCE... TO LEAD HER. .AND SERVE HER! IF YOU ALONE CAN ESCAPE... WE BEG YOU TO DO SO!

AND LEAVE YOU TO ROT HERE ...TO ROT AND DIE?

WE DIE FOR FRANCE! YOU MUST LIVE FOR FRANCE! SHE NEEDS YOU! THINK, GENERAL! THINK! IS THERE NO WAY YOU CAN ESCAPE THE BRITISH TRAP?

THERE IS A WAY, MES ENFANTS! BUT I MUST LEAVE YOU BEHIND! THIS I CANNOT DO! I CANNOT DESTROY YOU!

WE BEG YOU, GENERAL!. .GO! FRANCE...AND THE WORLD... NEEDS YOU!

I AM NOT WORTHY OF SUCH A NOBLE SACRIFICE! BUT THIS I PROMISE YOU...THAT WHAT YOU DO SHALL NOT BE DONE IN VAIN! I PLEDGE MYSELF TO THE FINAL, ULTIMATE VICTORY! I CAN DO NO LESS FOR WHAT YOU DO FOR ME! MY SOLDIERS... MY FRIENDS...MY COMRADES... I SALUTE YOU!

WHAT GOES ON WITH BONAPARTE, ADMIRAL?
NOTHING! HE IS HELPLESS! SEND WORD TO ENGLAND THAT HE IS FINISHED ONCE AND FOR ALL! WE NEED FEAR NO MORE FROM THE LITTLE...
BARG
MAN THE GUNS! ALL HANDS ON DECK! THE LITTLE FOOL IS TRYING TO DESTROY US FROM SHORE! LET THIS BE BONAPARTE'S LAST EFFORT!
THE FIRE COMES FROM THE EASTERN SHORE!
UNDER BONAPARTE'S DIRECTION, THE FRENCH OPENED FIRE ON THE FLEET FROM THE EASTERN SHORE! WHEN THE BRITISH PLOWED THROUGH THE WAVES TO BEAT DOWN THE ASSAULT, BONAPARTE WAS BUSY ON THE WESTERN SHORE!
THE LAST TWO SHIPS OF THE FLEET AWAIT YOUR COMMAND, MON GENERAL!
SAIL FOR FRANCE!
I WANT TO MEET THE UPSTART FACE-TO-FACE! I WANT TO SEE THE HATRED IN HIS EYES FOR WHAT I AM DOING TO HIM THIS NIGHT! BONAPARTE IS BEATEN AT LAST!
COME BELOW, GENERAL! WE ARE WELL ON OUR WAY! YOU HAVE ESCAPED THE BRITISH TRAP!
LET ME STAND HERE...UNTIL THE LAST GLOW OF BATTLE DIES!
A GENERAL MUST BE HARD...FIRM ...WITHOUT FEELINGS! HE MUST STEEL HIS HEART AND HIS MIND, EH, ADMIRAL?
OUI, MON GENERAL! COME.. THE SKY IS DARK! THE GLOW OF BATTLE IS GONE!
NON! IT STILL LIVES...IN MY HEART...AND IN THE PLEDGE TO MY MEN WHO DIED SO THAT I MAY LIVE! COME...I AM READY TO GO BELOW NOW!
THE END
6

ATLAS
FOR THE BEST IN WAR TALES LOOK FOR THE ATLAS SEAL ON THE COVER!
ATLAS

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THE MARINE FROM MARS

MR. and Mrs. Henry Saulpaugh made the trip to Marine Headquarters to see Colonel Howard Kennedy. Father drove the car but it was ma who really handled the back seat driving. You would think they should have had at least fifty accidents driving home along highway 20. Especially when ma would intone in her peculiar voice.

"Henry! Are you going to give that truck the right of way? Just because his car is larger than ours is no reason to let him push us off the highway."

Mr. Henry Saulpaugh knew the solution of how to drive and remain alive with ma giving the orders. He merely moved the switch on his hearing aid and all was peaceful. But he was disturbed about the future of his one and only son, Michael Delaney Saulpaugh. It would be necessary to explain to the Colonel about Michael's peculiarity.

The Colonel had a million things to take care of in these busy days. He would have preferred to let another officer interview the Saulpaugh's. But Senator Kyle was coming up for re-election and Mr. Saulpaugh controlled many votes. Hence a phone call to the Colonel asking him to personally see ma and pa. It was ma who did all the talking.

"Michael is a good boy," she explained. "But ever since he acted in his senior high school play he just hasn't been the same. He wrote it and called it The Marine from Mars. He actually made a suit for himself as a Martian. Every now and then he believes he really comes from that planet. Must you keep him in the Marines? I am certain you could win the war in Korea without the aid of my son."

It was necessary for the Colonel to keep a straight face and not laugh out loud. Yet he had to give a proper answer and not hurt the feelings of the Saulpaugh family.

"I have not only examined the record of your son," he replied, "but I have also interviewed him personally. He has already won a medal for marksmanship. He is a perfect gentleman. And in addition I personally believe he is material for an officer. We can't win the war in Korea without the aid of your son. Surely you would not want it on your conscience that we were defeated because you were selfish?" And then the Colonel added something that just slipped past his tongue.

"If it will make your son happier, I will give an order that he may take his Martian suit with him to Korea and wear it when he presents his play for the benefit of his fellow Marines."

Sergeant Alfred Dayton was a tough hombre. He knew how to give orders and get them obeyed. He had been through the toughest fighting in France in World War II days. He had nothing against the young marine, six feet 4, lots of personality, and a cooperative kid. But when he examined a very large package in Michael Delaney Saulpaugh's bunk he almost hit the ceiling. Space was at a premium at this Marine base located near Fowhi, Korea.

"What in the blazes do you call this?" he demanded in his powerful voice. "Orders are that only marine equipment was to be brought to this base. And you know the penalty for disobeying an order."

Young Michael didn't blink an eyelid. He just put his hand into his pocket and handed a letter to the Sergeant. It informed all that a certain Marine was to be permitted to keep a special uniform with him at all times except when up at the front fighting. And the signature was that of Colonel Howard Kennedy who now was in Korea with his men and also commandant at this base.

The reds had launched a limited offensive and top brass was now meeting at the Fowhi base to discuss matters.

"The Marines can handle this situation very well," said the Colonel. "With assault boats we can go north along the coast and trap them from the rear.

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT STORY...

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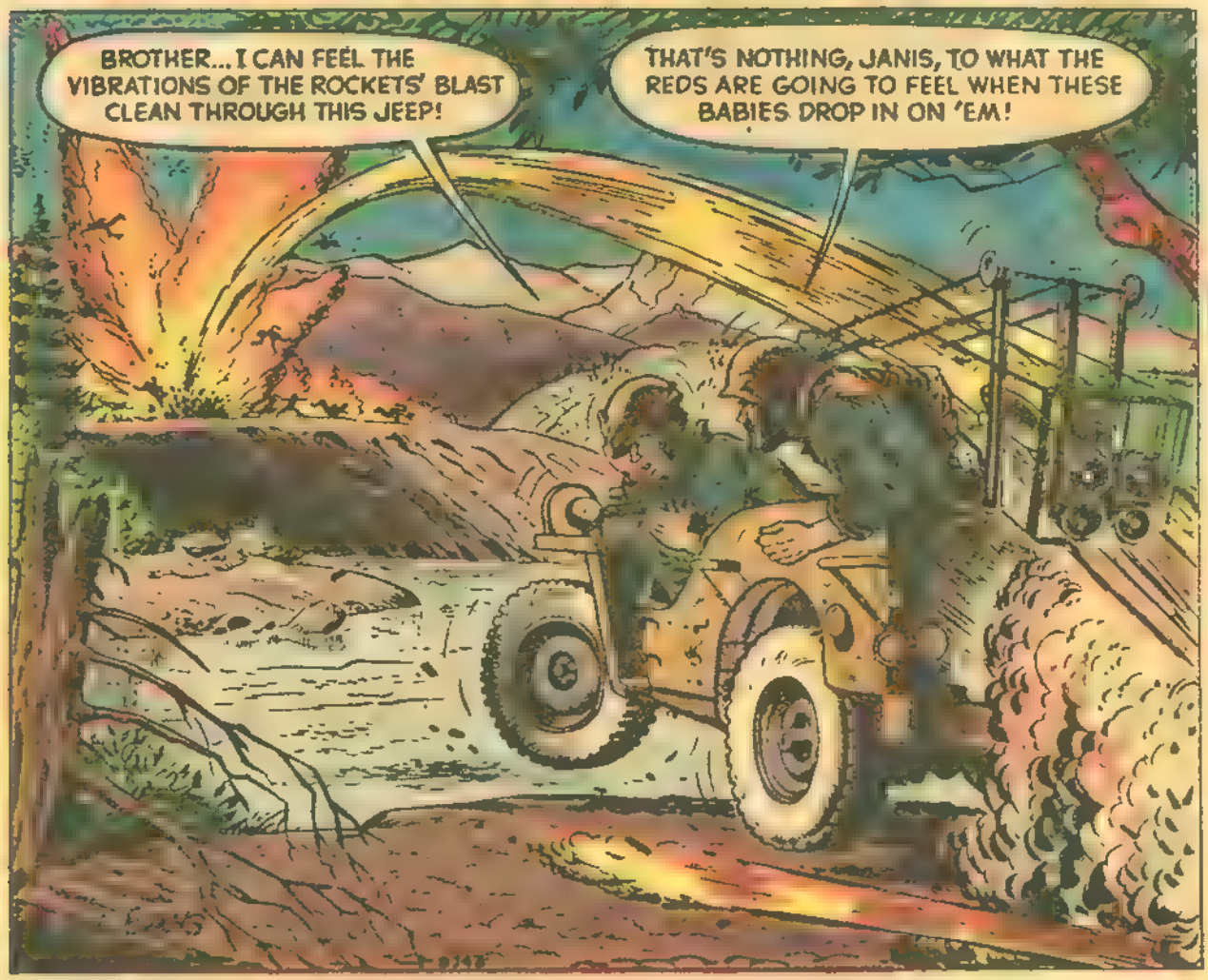
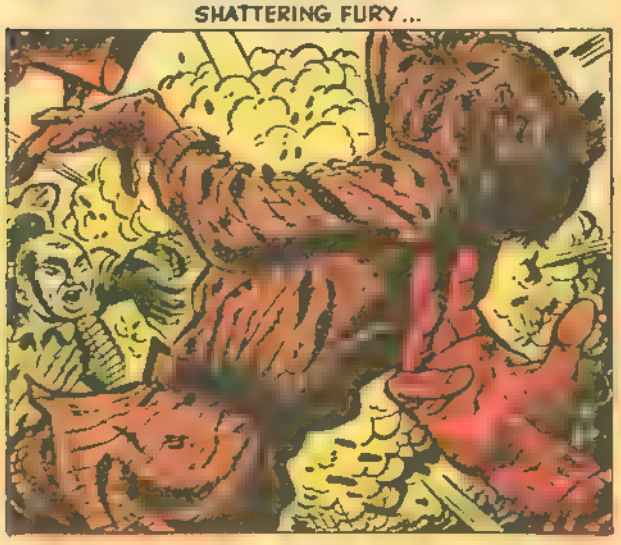
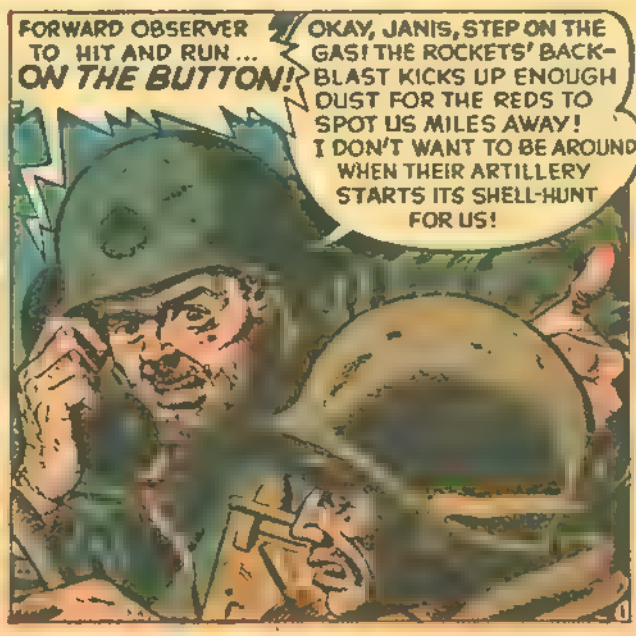
HIT AND RUN


BROTHER... I CAN FEEL THE VIBRATIONS OF THE ROCKETS' BLAST CLEAN THROUGH THIS JEEP!
THAT'S NOTHING, JANIS, TO WHAT THE REDS ARE GOING TO FEEL WHEN THESE BABIES DROP IN ON 'EM!

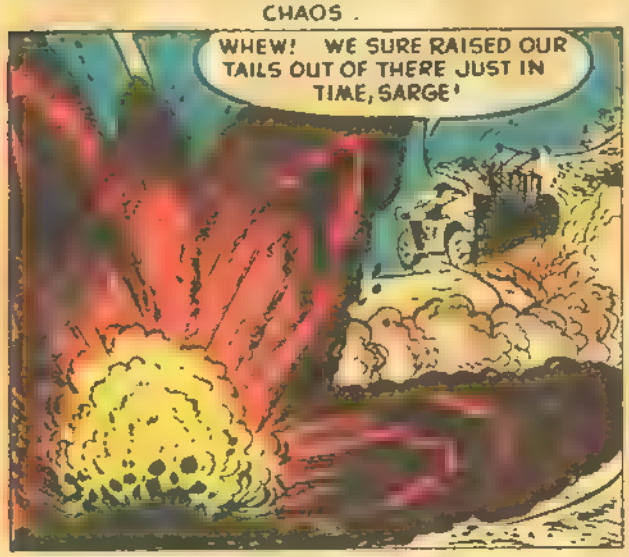
ARCHING HIGH OVER THE 34TH'S LINES, THE FUSILLADE OF JEEP-LAUNCHED ROCKETS BLASTS ACROSS THE FRONT AND EXPLODES ON RED POSITIONS WITH SHATTERING FURY...




FORWARD OBSERVER TO HIT AND RUN... ON THE BUTTON!
OKAY, JANIS, STEP ON THE GAS! THE ROCKETS' BACK-BLAST KICKS UP ENOUGH DUST FOR THE REDS TO SPOT US MILES AWAY! I DON'T WANT TO BE AROUND WHEN THEIR ARTILLERY STARTS ITS SHELL-HUNT FOR US!

FIRST THE FLASH, THEN THE DUST CLOUD! THE REDS KNOW WHAT CAUSES THEM! THAT'S THE BAD PART OF THIS JOB ALWAYS GOT TO BE ON THE RUN!
TURN OFF THE TALK AND TURN ON THE MOTOR, OR YOU'LL BE PICKING SHRAPNEL OUT OF YOUR HIDE FOR ETERNITY!

AS THE JEEP LEAPS FORWARD, SHELLS SCREAM OVERHEAD AND THE LAUNCHING SITE IS CHURNED TO CHAOS .

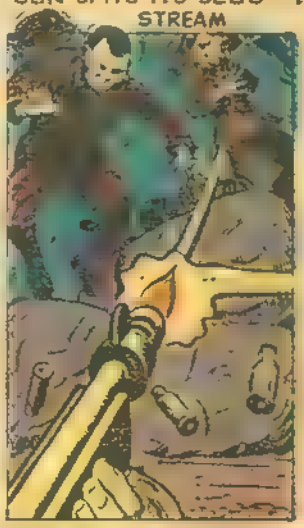


ABLE FOX TO HIT AND RUN .... TARGET, GRID CO-ORDINATES G-4 BY A-10' OBJECTIVE, RED ARTILLERY BATTERY'
HIT AND RUN TO ABLE FOX. WILL SET UP AND FIRE'

BUT AS THE JEEP GROANS UP THE STEEP KOREAN HILLSIDE JUST BEHIND THE FRONT.. A RIFLE BARKS AND.. .

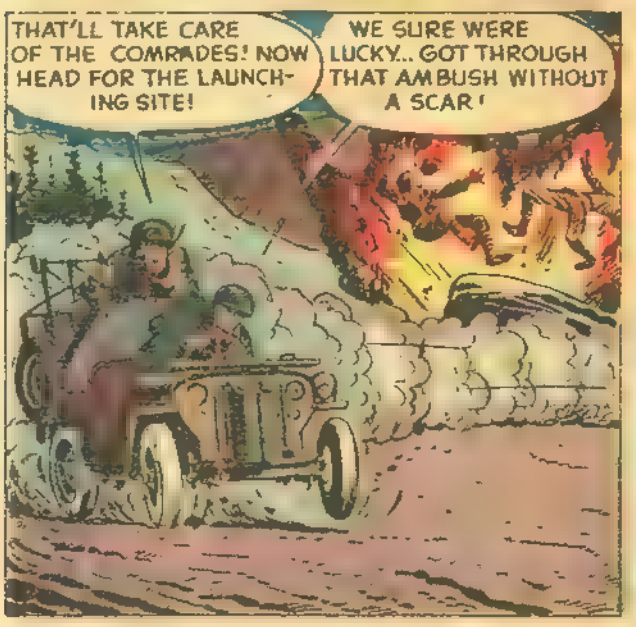
SUDDENLY, FROM BEHIND THE ROCKS AHEAD, RED INFILTRATORS RISE FIRING

THE JEEP SWERVES CLOSE TO THE ROCK, AS THE SERGEANT'S TOMMY GUN SPITS ITS SLUG STREAM

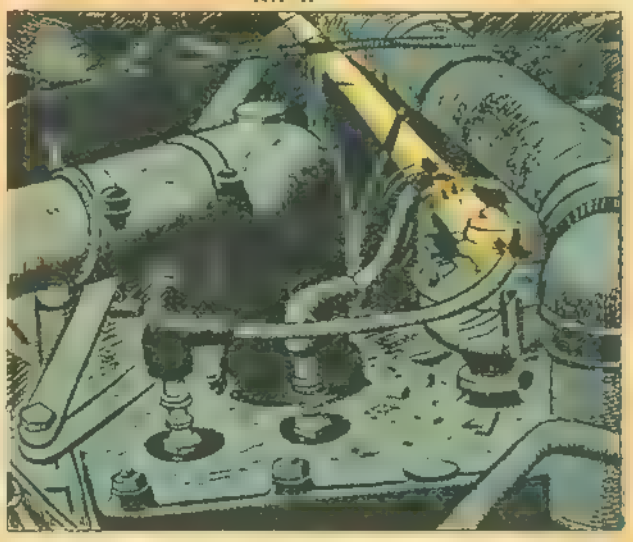


BULLETS CLANG A-GAINST THE SIDE OF THE ZIGZAGGING JEEP....

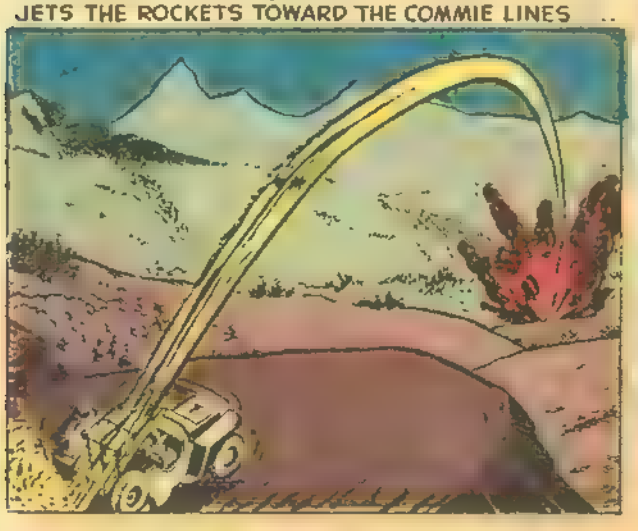
AS THE JEEP SWINGS SHARPLY FOR THE ROCKS, A GRENADE'S SAFETY PIN FLIES LOOSE, THE LETHAL MISSILE IS HURLED SKYWARD...


THAT'LL TAKE CARE OF THE COMRADES! NOW HEAD FOR THE LAUNCH-ING SITE!
WE SURE WERE LUCKY.. GOT THROUGH THAT AMBUSH WITHOUT A SCAR!

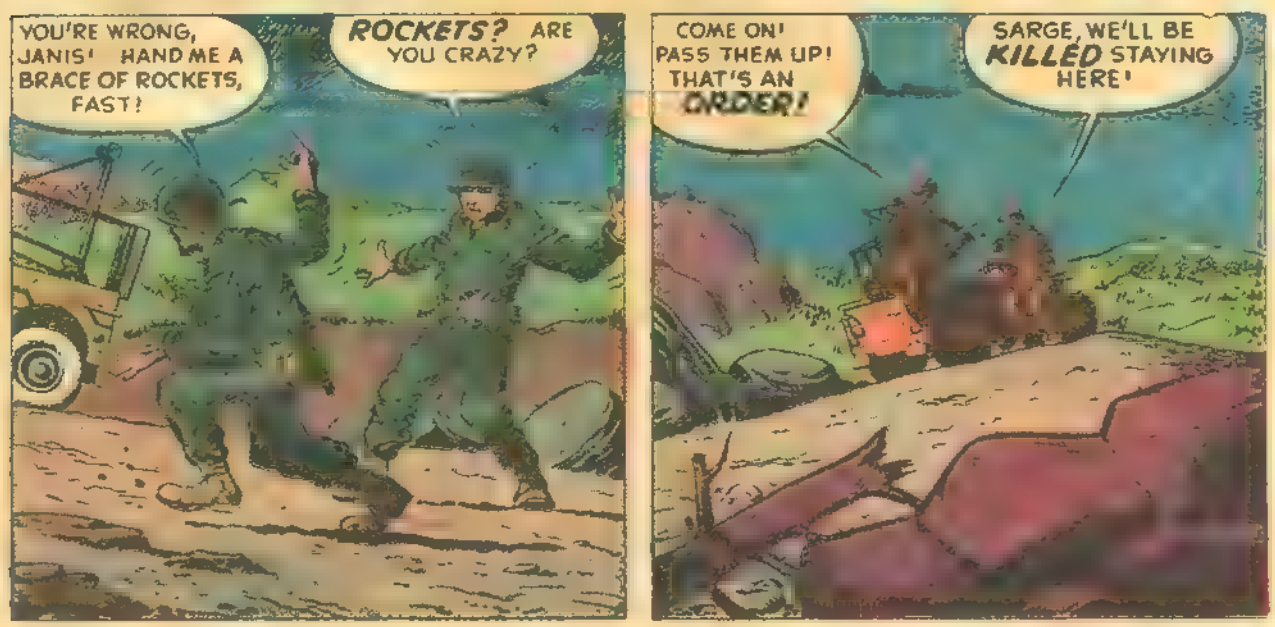
BUT AS THE JEEP DRIVES FORWARD, THE UNSEEN BULLET-SHATTERED DISTRIBUTOR WIRES BEGIN TO RIP ..



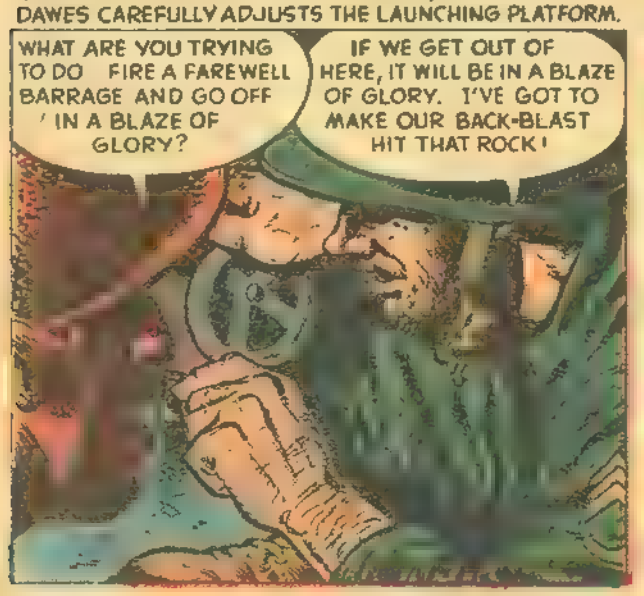
A MINUTE LATER, THE JEEP HALTS, SERGEANT DAWES PINPOINTS HIS TARGET, SETS THE LAUNCHING PLATFORM AT THE CORRECT ANGLE AND PRESSES THE FIRING CONTROLS, AS A HOT BLASTING FLASH JETS THE ROCKETS TOWARD THE COMMIE LINES ..



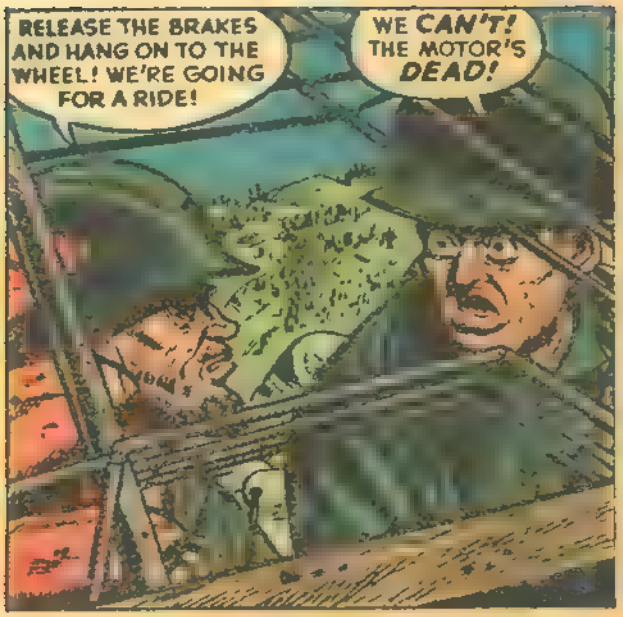
PRESS THE STARTER, JANIS! GET HER GOING! IT'S SUICIDE TO PARK HERE!
IT'S NO USE, SARGE! THE MOTOR'S DEAD!
WE WILL BE DEAD NEXT IF WE DON'T CLEAR OUT!
I'M CLEARING OUT! COME ON!
WAIT, JANIS! YOU CAN'T GET AWAY IN TIME ON FOOT! RED SHELLS'LL BE STRIKING ALL OVER THIS AREA!
LET ME GO, SARGE! GOING ON FOOT'S OUR ONLY WAY OUT OF HERE!

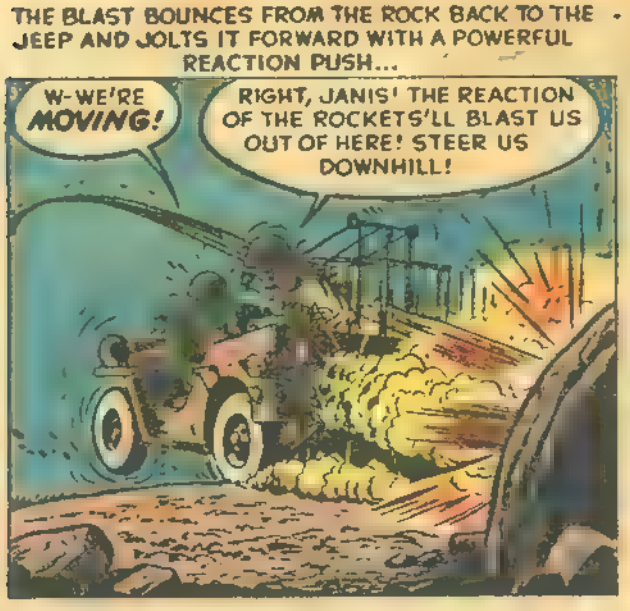

YOU'RE WRONG, JANIS! HAND ME A BRACE OF ROCKETS, FAST!
ROCKETS? ARE YOU CRAZY?
COME ON! PASS THEM UP! THAT'S AN ORDER!
SARGE, WE'LL BE KILLED STAYING HERE!

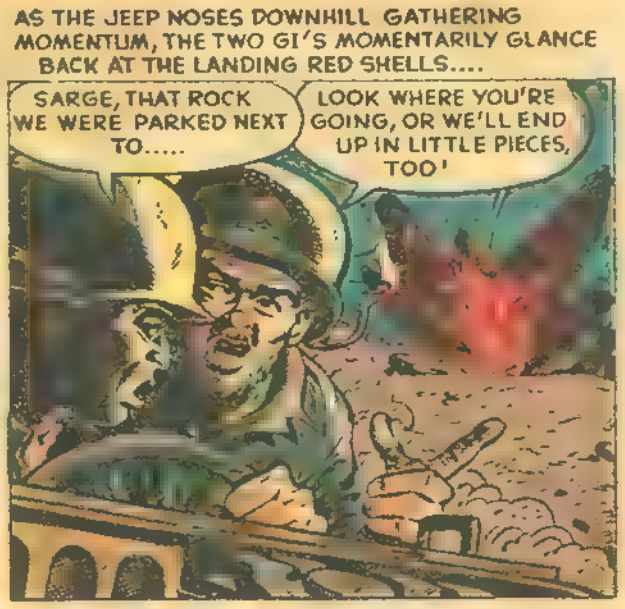
SLAPPING THE ROCKETS INTO PLACE, SERGEANT DAWES CAREFULLY ADJUSTS THE LAUNCHING PLATFORM.


WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO DO FIRE A FAREWELL BARRAGE AND GO OFF IN A BLAZE OF GLORY?
IF WE GET OUT OF HERE, IT WILL BE IN A BLAZE OF GLORY. I'VE GOT TO MAKE OUR BACK-BLAST HIT THAT ROCK!

BUT AS SERGEANT DAWES REACHES FOR THE FIRING CONTROLS, THE EARTH SHAKES UNDER THE EXPLODING IMPACT OF RED SHELLS...




THE BLAST BOUNCES FROM THE ROCK BACK TO THE JEEP AND JOLTS IT FORWARD WITH A POWERFUL REACTION PUSH...
W-WE'RE MOVING!
RIGHT, JANIS! THE REACTION OF THE ROCKETS'LL BLAST US OUT OF HERE! STEER US DOWNHILL!


AS THE JEEP NOSES DOWNHILL GATHERING MOMENTUM, THE TWO GI'S MOMENTARILY GLANCE BACK AT THE LANDING RED SHELLS....
SARGE, THAT ROCK WE WERE PARKED NEXT TO.....
LOOK WHERE YOU'RE GOING, OR WE'LL END UP IN LITTLE PIECES, TOO!

HEY, SARGE! SEE THE SIGN?
LET'S HOPE YOU CAN MAKE IT UNDER OUR OWN POWER! BECAUSE IF WE HAVE TO PUSH, YOU KNOW WHO'LL DO IT, PRIVATE JANIS!

OUR JEEP'S ENGINE WENT DEAD! DIVISION WANTS US BACK IN BUSINESS FAST!
ALL RIGHT, SARGE! I'LL GET MY JEEP EXPERTS ON IT IN A MINUTE! THEY CAN FIX ANY JEEP!

ATLAS FOR THE BEST IN WAR TALES LOOK FOR THE ATLAS SEAL ON THE COVER! ATLAS

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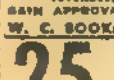

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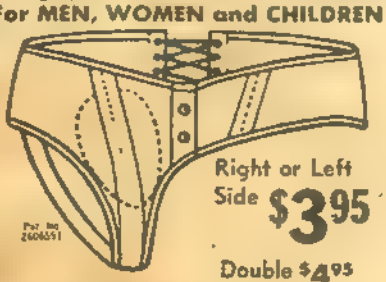

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RUSH THIS COUPON NOW!

Then with the aid of Marine air support we can wipe them out."

At the same time, red General Piu-Ho was meeting with his officers near Sampoo. The time had come to make an important decision.

"So far our limited offensive is working out fairly well. We have the enemy guessing about our intentions. But should they send up the Marines from Fowhi they would catch us in a trap. So I suggest we spring a trap before they get a chance at us. We will take a group of our well trained commando men and hide them in sampans. They will swim ashore and kill the Marine officers and as many others as possible. So certain am I of success that I shall lead them to this great victory."

The rest of the Marines at the base all liked young Michael. And in their way they would kid him about his Martian suit. One day while young Michael was trying on his Martian suit, Marine Walter Remonds made a very penetrating observation.

"With that outfit of yours it seems to me you can handle almost any situation. You have learned some Korean and Chinese. Maybe you even know the Martian language. But below the ocean is the lost continent of Atlantis. Suppose those people decided to invade the planet Earth. What would you do? Are you watching for the unexpected?"

It was a very cloudy, foggy, and moonless night. Young Michael was unable to sleep. He arose and put on his Martian suit and then walked to the beach. Just suppose the inhabitants from below decided to pull a fast one and invade Earth?

Sergeant Joe Peroni was looking at the radar screen in the observation room. There were several annoying dots that had no excuse for crossing the screen. The Colonel was asleep, and Major Edgar Lee was on duty that evening. Five minutes afte a phone call the Major looked at the screen.

"Could be fish. Could be birds. But we better not take any chances. I'll get a squad of men out to the beach. Those dots are getting closer to shore."

The first group of red commando soldiers had reached the beach. They were dripping wet

as they arose from the water. And there on the beach was a fantastic creature in a shiny metal suit with something that looked like eyes.

"Are you Martians? Or from Atlantis. Answer me or take the consequences!" This was said first in English, then in Korean and finally in Chinese.

Private Lum-Hux of the commando unit knew he was not to fire his gun. It might be a warning signal. He raised his knife and struck the figure. The blade broke and he shouted in agony as the homemade shocking unit gave him the works. Several other soldiers rushed at the figure. Then Young Michael let loose with the fire extinguisher he had around his back. The chemical spray hit the first five men who screamed in terror.

"A Devil of the Deep is here to fight us! Flee for your lives! We are powerless against this Creature of Black Magic!"

General Piu-Ho raised his gun to fire when a volley of shots from the shore raked the very place where he was standing. Many of the enemy soldiers slumped down into the water The wounded general shouted at the top of his voice.

"Don't leave me behind! Save me!"

By this time the rest of the Marines had the situation well in hand. They were firing around and over young Michael who was now firing with an automatic pistol he had kept in reserve. Finally he slumped to the ground exhausted from the lack of air in his suit.

"He'll be O. K. in a few days," said Doctor Willard Pearson to the Colonel. "Wonder what Washington will say when they hear this story?"

"Nothing much to what Peiking will say when they get a report of how they were defeated by just one Marine."

"By the way," remarked the medical officer, "He had been asking who helped him wipe out the invaders. Just what shall I say."

And without a single trace of a smile on his face, the Colonel gave the one and only proper answer.

"Some Marines from Mars came to the aid of a brother Marine."

THE END B-636

FIRE AT WILL

LT BRENNER MUST HAVE BEEN A GREAT OFFICER... I CAN SEE HOW DEEPLY THE MEN FEEL ABOUT LOSING HIM, SERGEANT WARD!
HE WAS MORE THAN AN OFFICER, LT. BELL, HE WAS A REAL MAN! WE ALL FELT HE WAS OUR BUDDY! THERE WAS NOTHING HE WOULDN'T DO FOR THE PLATOON... NOTHING, AND THAT'S HOW HE CAUGHT IT... PULLING US OUT OF A MESS!
THE VET PLATOON IDOLIZED THEIR COMMANDING OFFICER... COULD THE NEW LOOIE EVER HOPE TO FILL HIS BOOTS?
TUSKA
8839

ALL RIGHT, GUYS, LET'S GET MOVIN'! WE GOTTA RELIEVE THAT PLATOON BY 1600 HOURS!
IT'LL NEVER BE THE SAME WITHOUT LT. BRENNER! HECK, HE WAS LIKE MY OWN BROTHER!

SO WHADDA YA THINK OF THIS NEW SHAVE-TAIL, PETE? HE LOOKS LIKE HE SHINES HIS BARS EVERY DAY!
I DON'T WANT ANY PART OF HIM, GREG! GIVE MOST OF THEM NEW LOOIES A COMMAND AND IT GOES TO THEIR HEADS! THERE WAS ONLY ONE OFFICER WHO WAS A MAN.. BRENNER, AN' THERE'LL NEVER BE ANOTHER!

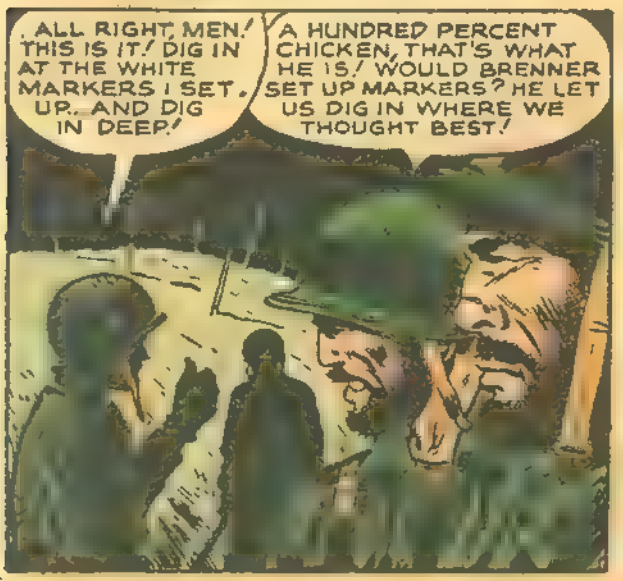
YOU SAID IT! I'M NOT GOING TO TAKE ANY DIRT FROM BELL! IF HE WANTS ANYTHING DONE, HE BETTER MAKE IT A DIRECT ORDER!
THAT'S IT, LOUIS! LET HIM LEARN THE HARD WAY, LIKE WE DID! I'M NOT STICKIN' MY NECK OUT FOR ANYTHING!

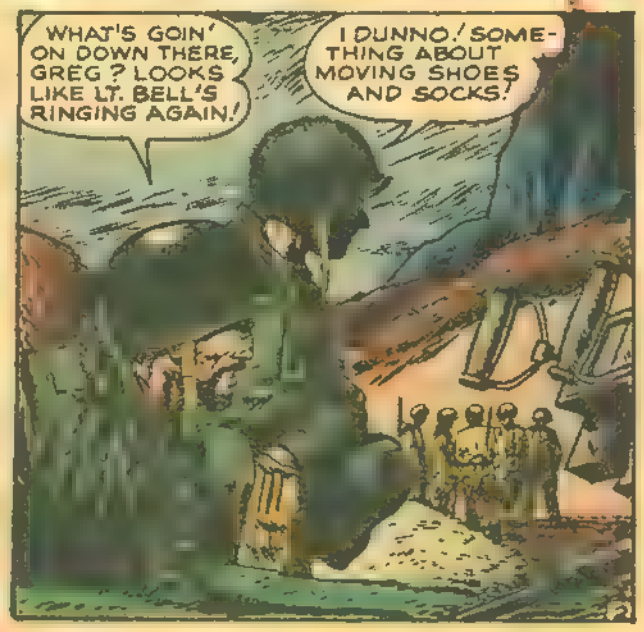
A SUDDEN HALT IS CALLED
I'M GOING TO CHECK EACH MAN'S EQUIPMENT BEFORE WE MOVE INTO THE LINES! I WANT TO MAKE SURE EVERYTHING'S IN A-1 SHAPE!
BUT, LIEUTENANT, EVERY ONE OF THEM'S A VET! THEY'VE HAD MORE'N A YEAR OF COMBAT! THEY TAKE CARE OF THEIR STUFF!

I DON'T CARE HOW LONG THEY'VE BEEN IN COMBAT! I'M RESPONSIBLE FOR 'EM AND I WANT TO SEE WHAT THEIR FIGHTING GEAR LOOKS LIKE! GET 'EM LINED UP!

THE MEN GRIPE BITTERLY AS LT. BELL PROCEEDS WITH HIS INSPECTION...

SUDDENLY THE PLATOON MOVES INTO RELIEF POSITIONS...


ALL RIGHT, MEN! THIS IS IT! DIG IN AT THE WHITE MARKERS I SET UP, AND DIG IN DEEP!
A HUNDRED PERCENT CHICKEN, THAT'S WHAT HE IS! WOULD BRENNER SET UP MARKERS? HE LET US DIG IN WHERE WE THOUGHT BEST!



IT WAS ANOTHER KIND OF INSPECTION, EVEN MORE INFURIATING TO THE SEASONED DOGGIES THAN THE FIRST!

YOUR FEET ARE JUST AS IMPORTANT AS YOUR WEAPONS! KEEP 'EM CLEANED AND POWDERED! I DON'T WANT ANY TRENCH FOOT IN THIS PLATOON!

BOY, THIS OUTFIT'S SURE GONE TO THE DOGS! THIS G I. FOOT SNIFFER'S BEEN READIN' TOO MANY OF THEM ARMY MANUALS!

JUST AS THE PLATOON FINISHES DIGGING IN, A HOWLING HORDE OF REDS ATTACK..

YAAAEE! HAAARR!

HERE THEY COME, ALL WOUND UP! KEEP FEEDIN' THOSE BELTS TO ME, LOUIS!

I WONDER WHERE LT. FOOT SNIFFER IS? I AIN'T SEEN HIM SINCE THOSE BANSHEES STARTED HOWLIN!

A DEADLY HAIL OF LEAD AND BURSTING GRENADES STOP THE REDS DEAD IN THEIR TRACKS...

THE FANATICAL CHARGE IS CHANGED TO A ROUT UNDER A STEADY STREAM OF G.I. FIRE!

YAHOO! LOOK AT THEM HEAD FOR HOME! THEY RUN INTO THE WRONG PLATOON!

I GUESS WE CAN TELL OLD FOOT SNIFFER IT'S SAFE TO COME OUT!

OVER ON THE FAR LEFT FLANK.

IT WAS A GOOD IDEA TO TAKE THIS FLANK POSITION, SIR! THEY TRIED TO GO AROUND, BUT YOU SURE STOPPED THEM!

THE MEN DID A SWELL JOB, BUT THE REDS WILL COME BACK... THEY ALWAYS DO!

BUT THE REDS FAIL TO RENEW THE ATTACK THAT NIGHT...

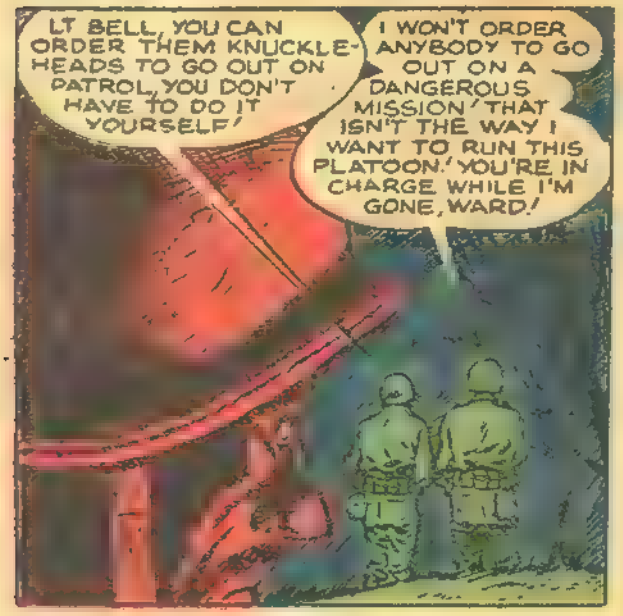
I DON'T DIG IT, SERGEANT! IT'S GOT ME WORRIED! THIS ISN'T THE WAY THE REDS USUALLY WORK IT!

THERE'S JUST A CHANCE THAT THEY'RE BUILDING UP A STEAM-ROLLER TO FLATTEN US!

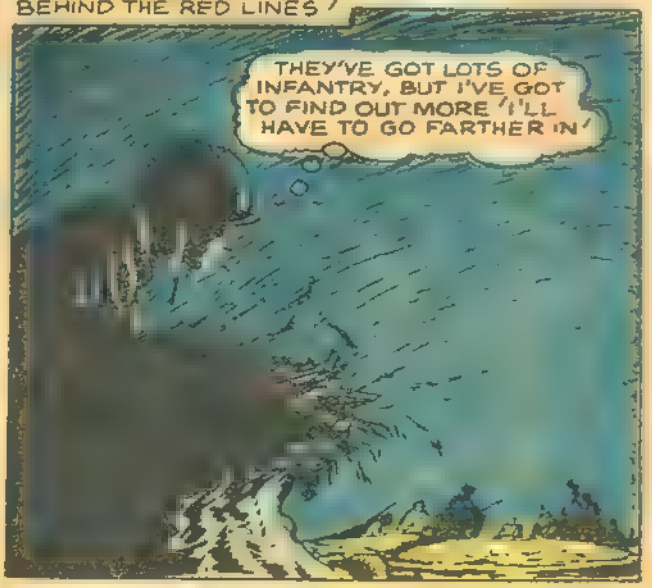
I'VE GOT TO FIND OUT WHAT GIVES BEHIND THE RED LINES! GET THE MEN TOGETHER! I'M FORMING A PATROL!

THE MEN FACE THE LIEUTENANT IN STONY SILENCE

I SAID I NEEDED FIVE VOLUNTEERS! THIS PATROL'S IMPORTANT! WE'VE GOT TO KNOW WHAT THE RED BUILD-UP IS!
I AIN'T STICKIN' MY NECK OUT!
ME NEITHER!


LT BELL, YOU CAN ORDER THEM KNUCKLE-HEADS TO GO OUT ON PATROL, YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO IT YOURSELF!
I WON'T ORDER ANYBODY TO GO OUT ON A DANGEROUS MISSION! THAT ISN'T THE WAY I WANT TO RUN THIS PLATOON! YOU'RE IN CHARGE WHILE I'M GONE, WARD!

CRAWLING SILENTLY, LT BELL INCHES HIS WAY BEHIND THE RED LINES!



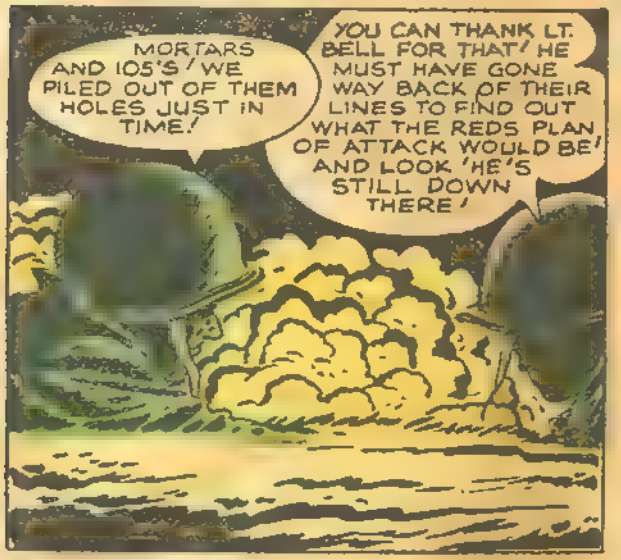
MEANWHILE AT THE PLATOON POSITIONS

I WISH THE LIEUTENANT WOULD GET BACK SOON! HE'S GONE FOUR HOURS NOW!
WHADDYA WORRIED ABOUT? HE PROBABLY WENT TO HEAD-QUARTERS TO COMPLAIN WE AIN'T TREATIN' HIM RIGHT! YUH DON'T REALLY THINK LT. FOOT SNIFFER'S SCOUTING THE RED LINES?

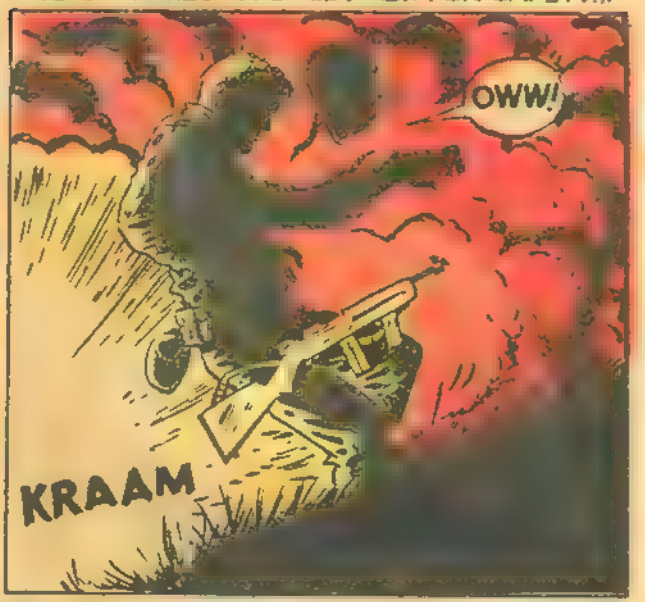
YEAH, I DO! AND WHAT'S MORE, I THINK YOU GUYS ACTED LIKE A BUNCH OF HEELS! HE'S NEW... TRYING TO DO HIS BEST! NOT EVERYBODY CAN BE LIKE BRENNER!
AAAHH, HE'S JUST A HUNDRED PERCENT CHICKEN! A PHONY IF I EVER SAW ONE! YOU WON'T FIND HIM IF YOU NEED HIM IN A CLUTCH!

DAWN BREAKS AND STILL NO LIEUTENANT FROM THE RED LINES A SUDDEN MOVEMENT IS NOTICED!
I CAN SEE SOME ACTION OUT THERE! YEAH, THEY'RE HEADED THIS WAY A WHOLE COMPANY OF REDS MAYBE MORE!
RISE AND SHINE, FELLAS! GET THE SAND OUT OF YOUR EYES! WE'RE HAVIN' COMPANY FOR BREAKFAST!
WHERE'S LT. FOOT SNIFFER NOW? I TOLD YA HE WOULDN'T BE AROUND WHEN TROUBLE STARTED! TWO BITS HE'S WATCHIN' THIS FROM A SAFE SPOT!
I DUNNO WHERE HE IS! JUST KEEP THAT MACHINE GUN WORKING AND YOUR MIND ON THOSE REDS!
HURTLING THEMSELVES OVER THE DEAD BODIES OF THEIR COMRADES, THE REDS CONTINUE THE COSTLY ATTACK!
HAAAEEE! YANKEE! WE KILL! AIEEEE!
SARGE, WE CAN'T HOLD 'EM! THAT BAYONET CHARGE'LL SWEEP R GHT THROUGH US!
YOU'LL GET IT IN THE BACK IF YOU RUN AWAY NOW! WE'VE GOT TO HOLD 'EM!
THE RED CHARGE BREAKS BEFORE A SUDDEN, FURIOUS FLANK ATTACK...
HEY! THEY'VE BEEN MOWED DOWN! THEY'RE RUNNING AWAY!
YEOW! IT'S THE LIEUTENANT! HE'S COME BACK!
ARRRGH!
SERGEANT WARD, CLEAR THOSE FOX-HOLES AND RETREAT TO THE TOP OF THE HILL! ON THE DOUBLE! I'LL COVER!
WE HAD THE COMMIES LICKED! WHY DO WE HAFTA RETREAT?
SHADDUP AND GET UP THAT HILL! THE LIEUTENANT KNOWS WHAT HE'S DOING!

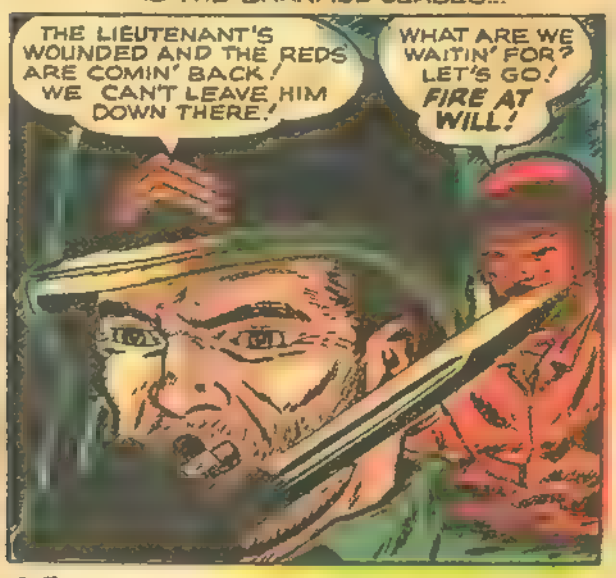
A BARRAGE SLAMS INTO THEIR VACATED FOXHOLES WHILE THE PLATOON GAINS THE SUMMIT OF THE HILL!

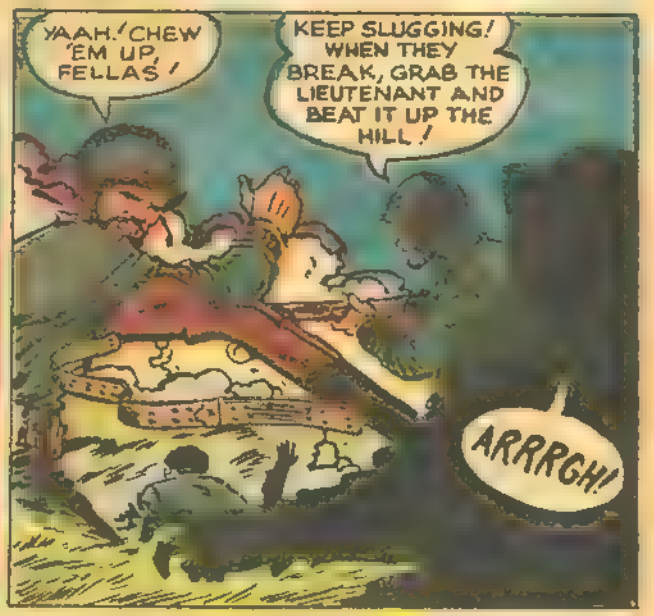

MORTARS AND 105'S! WE PILED OUT OF THEM HOLES JUST IN TIME!
YOU CAN THANK LT. BELL FOR THAT! HE MUST HAVE GONE WAY BACK OF THEIR LINES TO FIND OUT WHAT THE REDS PLAN OF ATTACK WOULD BE! AND LOOK 'HE'S STILL DOWN THERE!

LT. BELL MAKES A FUTILE DASH FOR SAFETY...

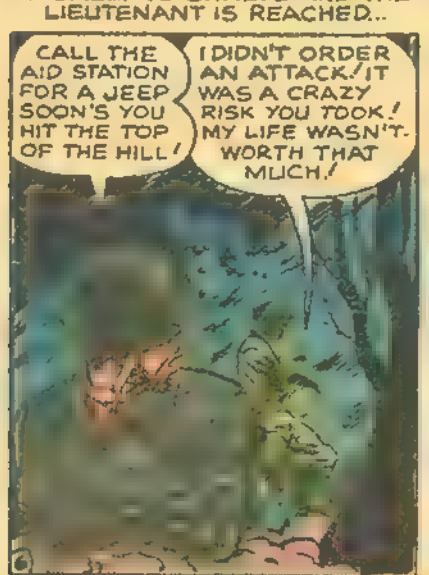


ONCE AGAIN THE REDS FORM TO ATTACK AS THE BARRAGE CEASES...

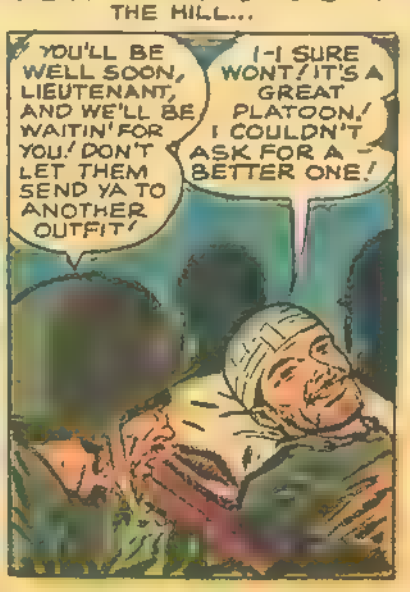

THE LIEUTENANT'S WOUNDED AND THE REDS ARE COMIN' BACK! WE CAN'T LEAVE HIM DOWN THERE!
WHAT ARE WE WAITIN' FOR? LET'S GO! FIRE AT WILL!



G.I BAYONETS RIP THE RED ASSAULT TO SHREDS AND THE LIEUTENANT IS REACHED..


CALL THE AID STATION FOR A JEEP SOON'S YOU HIT THE TOP OF THE HILL!
I DIDN'T ORDER AN ATTACK! IT WAS A CRAZY RISK YOU TOOK! MY LIFE WASN'T WORTH THAT MUCH!

THE MEDICS TAKE OVER WHEN THE PLATOON REGROUPS ON THE HILL...


YOU'LL BE WELL SOON, LIEUTENANT, AND WE'LL BE WAITIN' FOR YOU! DON'T LET THEM SEND YA TO ANOTHER OUTFIT!
I-I SURE WON'T! IT'S A GREAT PLATOON! I COULDN'T ASK FOR A BETTER ONE!

ATLAS FOR THE BEST IN WAR TALES LOOK FOR THE ATLAS SEAL ON THE COVER! ATLAS

AW! HE'S NEVER ANY FUN.
I KNOW BASEBALL, BUT THE GANG WONT LISTEN!
JIMMY, YOU MUST MAKE YOUR STORIES INTERESTING. SEND AWAY FOR THE COMPLETE BASEBALL JOKE BOOK
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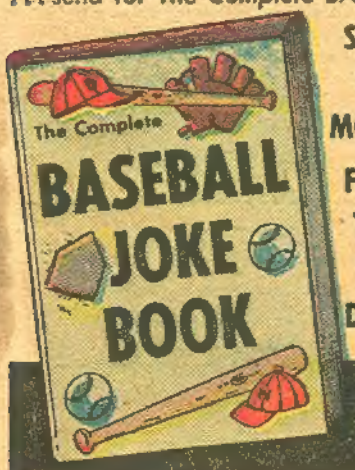

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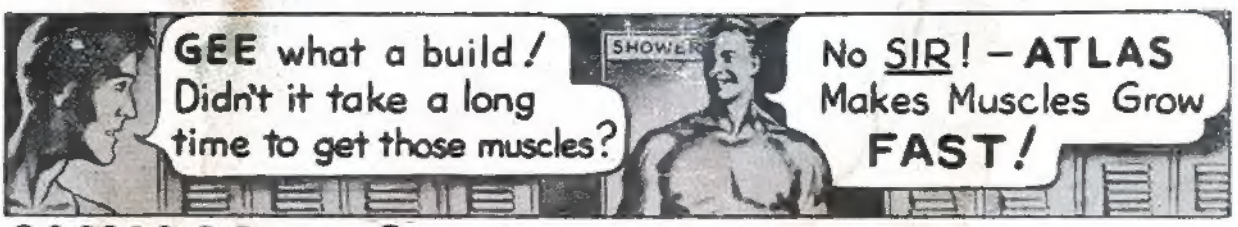

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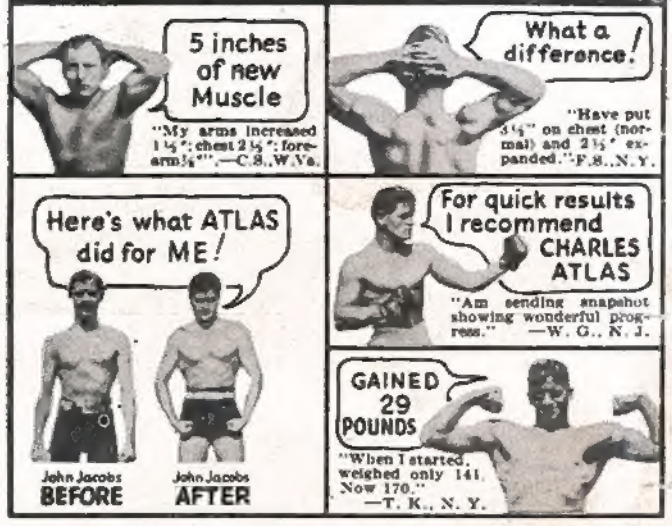
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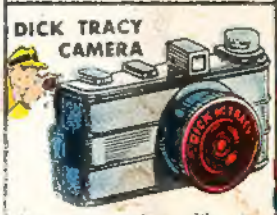

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